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**III. REMARKS**

The Examiner's careful consideration is appreciated. The DETAILED ACTION is discussed below. Claims 21, 26 and 29 are amended to clarify the definition of the invention. Claims 27 and 28 are cancelled.

*The rejection of claims 21-23, 24 and 25-32 under 35 USC 103(a) based on the combination of Faruque et al. and Hazama et al.*

Amended independent claims 21 and 29 distinctly point out a continuous loop library for compiling information from individual sources with discrete identities. As claimed, uniquely identified individual sources are involved in the development of a component. Information is distributed among design, assembly and simulation testing members of an enterprise task group where members are distinctly associated with separate (design, assembly and simulation) functions and locales. Dependent claims, claims 22-26, dependent on claim 21, and claims 30-32, dependent on claim 29, incorporate the foregoing limitations wherein functions, sources and access points are distinct, unique and separate, yet integrated in the same library through the loop.

The Examiner refers to the applicants' arguments:

... that with respect to Faruque et al., the Examiner is applying Faruque et al., beyond any legitimate interpretation of the reference. Faruque et al., ignores the realities of specialized functions associated with a group members. Groups and tasks are each specialized, not overlapping functions. Members of different disciplines may be located in separate sites [1]. Faruque et al., describes a single user station for processing data independent of user function or user access restriction[2]; Faruque et al., stores data, only upon successful completion of a test. In reality, numerous iterations of a simulation are required with changes in design, connectors, materials and the like proposed by multiple members having different skills, with differing responsibilities in a group with a common objective [3]. Hazama et al., is similarly not applicable as Hazama et al., relates to managing customer fabrication orders, not

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successive iterations of design changes consistent with defined group member responsibility in an enterprise design environment [4].

The Examiner notes that "features upon which applicant [sic] relies ... are not recited in the rejected claims ... limitations from the specification are not read into the claims (citation omitted)." To overcome this rejection, the current amendment incorporates the features in the specification into the claim language.

35 USC Section 103(a) requires that "the subject matter as a whole" of the claimed invention must be considered. The use of hindsight is impermissible; the obviousness inquiry is keyed to "the time the invention was made." Claims 21 and 29, as clarified by the amendment, now define the invention described in the specification and neither Faruque *et al.* nor Hazama *et al.*, separately, or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed invention. The features upon which applicants rely are recited in the amended claims and limitations from the specification are not now required to be read into the claims. Independent claims 21 and 29, as amended, thus meet the Examiner's comment, and distinguish the invention in their own terminology over the cited references. Likewise, dependent claims 22-28 and 29-32 incorporate the limitations of the specialized, not overlapping, functions associated with members of groups in the different disciplines located in separate sites.

#### IV. STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116

In view of the Final Action, claims 21 and 29 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention described in the Specification such that any reference to matter not set out in the claims is unnecessary.

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The subject matter of the amendment was not submitted earlier because the Examiner's above explanation of the specific basis for objection to the claims was not previously stated. Claims 27 and 28 are cancelled and the remaining claims are amended to clarify the definition of the invention in accordance with the Examiner's comments. The amendment is expected to result in allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

**V. CONCLUSION**

Entry of the amendment, reexamination and allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or suggestions in view of the foregoing, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the Examiner initiate a telephone call to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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IV. CERTIFICATE OF FILING BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I certify that this **AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE COMMUNICATION AND FINAL ACTION MAILED ON MAY 28, 2008** (12 pages) and Transmittal Form, PTO/SB/21 (1 page) are being filed by facsimile transmission to Group Art Unit 2123, Attention: Examiner Eunhee Kim, Facsimile Number 571-273-8300, Confirmation Number 571-272-2164. [Alternate address: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450] on June 10, 2008.



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Serial Number: 10/616,140

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